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Dr. Bridges announced the death of Mr. Chas. McEuen, late a member of the Academy.

Dr. Leidy called the attention of the members to a bottle containing numerous specimens of a large species of *Gordius* discovered by Dr. Wm. A. Hammond, 525 miles west of Fort Riley, Kansas Territory. Dr. Hammond states they were found in a pond in great numbers, in company with *Siredon*. They swam actively forward an inch or two beneath the surface of the water, and occasionally lifted the anterior end even above the latter.

The collection contains 24 females and the same number of males. The females are cylindrical, light brown of various shades, shining, iridescent; anterior extremity narrowed; head surrounded with a dark brown ring; tail obtuse, slightly compressed, with a terminal genital pore. The males are darker colored than the females; tail extremity more or less spirally enrolled, with the extremity bifurcated; forks divergent, incurved, smooth, connected at base anteriorly by a crescentic fold, in advance of which is the genital pore; head as in the female.

The females measure from 10 inches in length by ⅓ of a line thick, to 2 feet 6 inches in length and 3-5ths of a line thick; the males 8 inches in length by ¼ of a line thick, to 2 feet 2 inches in length by 2-5ths of a line thick.

Dr. Leidy next directed the attention of the members to a bottle containing seven specimens of the larva of a species of *Oestrus* or bot-fly. They were obtained by Dr. Hammond from a pouched rat, *Thomomys borealis*, at Bridger's Pass, on the summit of the Rocky Mountains, July 1857. Dr. Hammond found the rat panting on the road side, without power of escaping. The bots were found situated beneath the skin of the back, belly, and thigh.

The body of these larvæ is oblong oval, compressed, incurved; head minute, composed of a transverse pair of papillary eminences, each supporting two minute ocelli, and having projecting from beneath, forward and downward, a pair of strong black hooks. Spiracular laminæ trilobed and marked with vermicular lines. Segments of the body closely covered with discoidal corneous tubercles, of which the anterior ones have their posterior border projecting and dentated.

The smallest is light yellowish brown; and as they become larger they assume a darker tint. The largest are black, hard, shining and remarkably shagreened in appearance.

Length of the smallest larva 5 lines, breadth 3 lines, thickness 2½ lines; length of largest 9 lines, breadth 5½ lines, thickness 3 lines.

December 8th, 1857.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Dr. Leidy called the attention of the members to a drawing of a curious animalcule, found attached to stones and dead stems of plants in the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. The animal, though closely allied in structure to the Rotatoria or wheel animalcules, yet possesses no rotary or other ciliated apparatus. The body is regularly oval, transparent, colorless, and finely tuberculated. From the anterior truncated extremity of the body, the animal projects and retracts at will a delicate cup-shaped membrane about half the size of the body. The membrane exhibits delicate and distant longitudinal and circular muscular fibres, which are branching. At the bottom of the cup the mouth communicates with a capacious stomach, and this with a muscular gizzard with lateral jaws, as in most rotifers, and which, as in these, are constantly in motion. From the gizzard opens a second stomach, which communicates with a short intestine terminating in a posterior anal aperture. The digestive apparatus is attached to the outer tunic of the body by diverging muscles. The visceral cavity usually contains numerous eggs in various stages of development, from that containing the germinal vesicle to such as contain the fully formed embryos. Attached to the inner surface of the body are a number of opaque, white, irregularly oval bodies.

The size of the animalcule is about the 1-5th of a line in diameter. It appears to be permanently fixed to the positions in which it is found. When disturbed, it folds up its oral cup like an umbrella and retracts it within the body. By means of it, it catches its prey, which consists of smaller animalcules. From the stomach of one individual I squeezed out as many as fifty of the latter.

For the genus and species the name *Dictyophora vorax* is proposed.

December 15*th*, 1857.

Vice-President Bridges in the Chair.

A paper was presented for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Prodromus Descriptionis Animalium Invertebratorum quæ in Expeditione ad Oceanum Pacificum Septentrionalem a Republicâ Federatâ missâ, Cadwalladero Ringgold et Johanne Rodgers ducibus, observavit et descripsit W. Stimpson, Pars Tertia," which was referred to a Committee.

Mr. Lea exhibited the plates accompanying his paper, recently presented to the Academy, on fresh water Naïades collected in Siam, &c., by Dr. House, at the suggestion of Mr. Haines and others of New York. Several of the specimens are very similar to our own species from the valley of the Ohio. A specimen from Australia much resembles the U. Hopetonensis, Lea, from Southern Georgia.

December 22*d*, 1857.

Vice President Bridges in the Chair.

A paper was presented for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Observations on a Group of Fossil Shells found in Tippah Co., Miss., with descriptions of fifty-five new species," by T. A. Conrad, which was referred to a Committee.

Mr. Lea stated, in presenting a specimen to the Academy, that he had visited the locality at Braintree, 10 miles south of Boston, where specimens of large *Trilobites* have been recently found. The attention of Prof. W. B. Rogers was called, some fifteen months since, to "this unique and most interesting locality," by Peter Wainwright, Esq., residing in the neighborhood. Mr. Lea agreed entirely with Prof. Rogers in placing this formation among the more ancient of the Paleozoic periods. It lies directly on the granite rocks, or rather it is squeezed in and is embraced by these rocks, (on the east and west sides,) which are disturbed by an upheaval. The formation here is about three hundred yards wide, and lies in a south-east direction. In examination of the quarry, Mr. Lea was kindly assisted by the owner, Mr. E. Hayward, who now carefully preserves the best specimens which are brought to light. He pointed out to Mr. Lea the parts of the quarry where most of the specimens were found, and where some impressions were still remaining in place on the surfaces of the stratification. These surfaces dipped to the south 68°. The rock consists of a very hard, gray, slaty sandstone, frequently breaking into irregular cross fractures. The *Trilobite* found here is of great interest. It belongs to the genus *Paradoxides*, and is no doubt the same as described by Prof. Green many years since, under the name of *P. Harlani*, of which there is a cast in the collection of the Academy, and which, on comparison with the specimen now presented, proves to be undoubtedly identical. Barande describes and figures several species of the genus *Paradoxides* from the lower Silurian of Bohemia, which are closely allied to this, and prove conclusively that the strata must be nearly if not precisely on the same horizon.